

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing buffer overrun security vulnerabilities comprising:
placing a return address on a stack;
calculating a random number;
saving the random number in a secure location;
~~adding~~ placing a plurality of empty spaces equal to the random number in to a
known place on the stack;
executing a called function;
removing one or more of the plurality of empty spaces from the known place on
the stack where they were previously placed to find the return address; and
setting an end of stack pointer to an end of stack frame.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~calculating a random number;~~
~~saving the random number in a secure location;~~
~~placing a plurality of blank bytes equal to the random number to the stack;~~
building a stack frame by placing values from the called function to the stack; and
setting an end of stack pointer to an end of the stack frame.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the location comprises a processor register that is not generally accessible.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
recalling the random number saved;
removing a number of bytes equal to the random number from the stack;
retrieving the return address for the called function from the stack; and
setting an end of stack pointer to an end of a previous stack frame.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
calculating a hash value of stack invariants;
saving the hash value in a secure location; and
building a stack frame by placing values from the called function onto the stack.

Claims 6-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a storage device having stored therein one or more routines for preventing buffer
 overflow security vulnerabilities; and
a processor coupled to the storage device for executing the one or more routines
 to prevent buffer overflow errors by:
 placing a return address on a stack,
 calculating a random number;
 saving the random number in a secure location;
 ~~adding~~ placing a plurality of empty spaces equal to the random number in
 to a known place on the stack;
 executing a called function,

removing one or more of the plurality of empty spaces from the known
place on the stack where they were previously placed to find the
return address, and
setting an end of stack pointer to an end of stack frame.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor to prevent buffer overrun errors by:
~~calculate a random number;~~
~~save the random number in a secure location;~~
~~place a plurality of blank bytes equal to the random number to the stack;~~
build a stack frame by placing values from the called function onto the stack; and
set an end of stack pointer to an end of the stack frame.
14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the location comprises a processor register that is not generally accessible.

Claims 15-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
place a return address on a stack;
calculate a random number;
save the random number in a secure location;
~~add~~place a plurality of empty spaces equal to the random number ~~into~~ a known
place on a stack;

execute a called function;

remove one or more of the plurality of empty spaces from the known place on the stack where they were previously placed to find the return address; and
set an end of stack pointer to an end of stack frame.

24. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to:

~~calculate a random number;~~

~~save the random number in a secure location;~~

~~place a plurality of blank bytes equal to the random number to the stack;~~

build stack frame by placing values from the called function onto the stack; and
set an end of stack pointer to an end of the stack frame.

25. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the location comprises a processor register that is not generally accessible.

Claims 26-33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a storage medium; and

a processor coupled ~~with~~ to the storage medium, the processor to
place a return address on a stack,

calculate a random number;

save the random number in a secure location;

~~add~~ place a plurality of empty spaces equal to the random number in to a

known place on the stack,

execute a called function,

remove one or more of the plurality of empty spaces from the known place

on the stack where they were previously placed to find the return

address, and

set an end of stack pointer to an end of stack frame.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the processor is further to:

~~calculate a random number;~~

~~save the random number in a secure location;~~

~~place a plurality of blank bytes equal to the random number to the stack;~~

build stack frame by placing values from the called function onto the stack; and

set an end of stack pointer to an end of the stack frame.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the location comprises a processor register that is not generally accessible.